

Message Text

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41

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DRC-01 INR-11 IO-14 MED-03 NSAE-00

PA-04 RSC-01 SCA-01 SCI-06 USIA-15 PRS-01 CIAE-00

HEW-08 AID-20 DODE-00 /106 W
----- 102126

R 191915Z SEP 74

FM AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5577

INFO USPHS WAHSDC

CDC ATLANTA

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SAO PAULO 2085

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SWEL, BR

SUBJECT: REPORT OF DR. MC CORMICK - MENINGITIS EXPERT

1. CDC EPIDEMIOLOGIST DR. MC CORMICK SUBMITTED TO CONGEN THE FOLLOWING STATUS REPORT ON SEPTEMBER 17 PRIOR TO DEPARTING TO U.S. VIA STOPOVER IN AMAPA TERRITORY:

A. SINCE JUNE 1974 THE ATTACK RATES OF MENINGITIS HAVE BEEN INCREASING IN SAO PAULO. CURRENTLY THE OVERALL RATE IN SAO PAULO IS ABOUT 15-20 CASES PER 100,000 POPULATION PER MONTH, WHICH IS AT LEAST 5 TIMES THAT OF 1973. 80 TO 90 PERCENT OF THE DISEASE CONTINUES TO BE DUE TO SEROGROUP A. THE STATE-RUN VACCINATION PROGRAM HAS GOTTEN UNDERWAY, SOME 500,000 TYPE A VACCINATIONS HAVING BEEN ADMINISTERED ALREADY AND ANOTHER 200,000 TYPE C TO SCHOOL CHILDREN. HOWEVER, THERE IS CURRENTLY NO EVIDENCE THAT THE RATE OF DISEASE IS DECREASING. TO THE CONTRARY, THE RATE IS CONTINUING TO ACCELERATE. OUTBREAKS OF MENINGITIS ALSO APPEAR TO BE GETTING MORE SERIOUS IN MANY OTHER AREAS OF BRAZIL SUCH AS BRASILIA, MINAS GERAIS, RIO GRANDE DO SUL AND OTHERS.

B. THE ATTACK RATES SHOULD BEGIN TO DECREASE IN NOVEMBER WITH
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THE SEASONAL CHANGE IN WEATHER. HOWEVER, THE SITUATION OF

SERGROUPS A AND C TOGETHER AND THE UNPRECEDENTED HIGH RATE OF GROUP A MAKES PREDICTION HAZARDOUS.

C. THE AGE GROUPS CURRENTLY BEING AFFECTED THE MOST IN SAO PAULO ARE AGES 1 - 4 YRS. AND 10 - 14 YRS. THE DEATH RATE AMONG CASES OF MENINGITIS IS ABOUT 15 PERCENT IN SAO PAULO. THE CUMULATIVE DEATH FIGURE IN SAO PAULO SO FAR THIS YEAR IS ROUGHLY 2,000, ALTHOUGH THE AUTHORITIES HAVE MADE IT VERY DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN PRECISE DATA.

D. DESPITE THE CONTINUING INCREASE IN ATTACK RATES THERE STILL APPEARS TO BE LITTLE RISK FOR AMERICANS IN BRAZIL. THIS IS BASED ON A FACT OF ZERO DOCUMENTED CASES PER 25,000 AMERICANS IN BRAZIL SO FAR THIS YEAR COMPARED TO AN EXPECTED NUMBER OF 40 - 50 CASES IN 25,000 AVERAGE BRAZILIANS.

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